




By the King. (101.)
A P R O C L A M A T I O N
For a General F A S T

Throughout the whole Kingdom of *England*.

CHARLES R.

 Hereas Our most Loyal and Obedient Subjects, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in Parliament Assembled, being passionately Sensible of the Calamitous Condition of this Kingdom, not onely by reason of the War wherein it is at present involved, but many other Intestine Differences and Divisions amongst Us, which are chiefly occasioned by the undermining Contrivances of Popish Recusants, whose Numbers and Insolencies are greatly of late Encreased, and whose restless Practices threaten a Subversion both of Church and State; all which our sins have justly deserved: And being now Assembled in Parliament, as the great Council of this Our Kingdom, to Consult of such means as they conceive fittest to redress the present Evils wherewith this Nation is surrounded; Have in the first place humbly besought Us, That by Our special Command, One or more Days may be forthwith Solemnly set apart, wherein, both themselves and this Kingdom may by Fasting and Prayer seek a Reconciliation at the hands of Almighty God, and with humble and penitent hearts beseech him to heal the Breaches of this Nation, and remove the Evils it doth lie under, and to avert those Miseries wherewith it is threatened, and continue the Mercies it doth yet enjoy, and that he will be graciously pleased to bestow his abundant Blessing upon Us, and the present Parliament: That all their Councils and Consultations may tend to the Glory of God, and the Honour, Safety, and Prosperity of Us, and all Our People. Wherefore, and out of Our own Re-

lemly let apart, wherein, both themselves and this Kingdom may be preserved from at the hands of Almighty God, and with humble and penitent hearts beseech him to heal the Breaches of this Nation, and remove the Evils it both lie under, and to avert those Miseries wherewith it is threatened, and continue the Mercies it both yet enjoy, and that he will be graciously pleased to bestow his abundant Blessing upon Us, and the present Parliament: That all their Councils and Consultations may tend to the Glory of God, and the Honour, Safety, and Prosperity of Us, and all Our People. Wherefore, and out of Our own Religious Disposition being thereto readily inclined, We have Resolved, and hereby do Command a General and Publick Fast to be kept throughout this Whole Kingdom, in such manner as is hereafter Directed and Prescribed. And to the end so Religious an Exercise may be performed with all Decency and Uniformity, We have Resolved upon a Grave and Religious Form of Solemnizing thereof: And do hereby strictly Charge and Command, That on Wednesday, being the Fourth day of February next, this Fast be Religiously and Solemnly Observed and Celebrated, in the Cities of London and Westminster, Burrough of Southwark, and other Places within Ten Miles distance, wherein We in Our Royal Person, and with Our Royal Family and Household, will give Example to the rest of Our People. And that on Wednesday the Eleventh day of February next, the like be Kept, and duly Observed throughout the rest of this Whole Kingdom of England, and Dominion of Wales, and Town of Berwick upon Tweed. And for the more orderly Solemnizing thereof without Confusion, We, by the Advice of Our Reverend Bishops, have Directed to be Composed, Printed, and Published, the Form of such Prayers, and Publick Exhortations, as We think fit to be Used in all Churches and Places at the Times aforesaid, and have given Charge to Our Bishops to Disperse the same throughout the Whole Kingdom; And We Require and Command all Preachers, to Exhort their Congregations on the said respective Days, to Mercy and Liberality to the Poor, in this time of Dearth and Scarcity; All which We do Expressly Charge and Command shall be Reverently and Decently Performed by all Our Loving Subjects, upon Pain of Our High Displeasure, and such Punishments as We can Inflict upon all such as shall Contemn, or Neglect so Religious a Work.

Given at Our Court at *Whitehall* this Sixteenth day of *January* 167 $\frac{3}{4}$, and in the Five and twentieth year of Our Reign.

God save the King.

(102.)

LONDON,

Printed by the Assigns of *John Bill* and *Christopher Barker*, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Majesty. 167 $\frac{3}{4}$.